

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH, 1947.

Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. Drought losses in the two previous years had reduced stock numbers considerably but the present report reflects the reasonably good conditions during the last year. Sheep and cattle both record substantial increases in numbers and specially pleasing features are the increased number of lambs marked for 1946 and the increased number of ewes for the 1947 lambing. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 379,992 (1,300,234). Cattle 14,829 (23,596) Horses 4,450 (14,201) and Pigs 6,590 (7,760).

SHEEP 7,958,619 (6,786,538) an increase of 1,172,081 on the previous year but still 2,411,946 less than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. There were 4,218,596 (3,882,869) breeding and 329,815 (380,823) other ewes, 1,326,176 (1,487,640) wethers; 121,094 (109,365) rams and 1,962,938 (925,841) lambs.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. There were reported to be 5,926,462 pure bred merino; 342,187 other pure breeds (for which particulars will be available later); 274,068 merino comebacks and 1,415,902 all other, including crossbreds. These particulars have not been collected since 1940, when the respective figures were 8,251,883; 249,535; 593,017 and 1,168,988.

LAMBING 1946. 3,748,453 (3,036,031) ewes were mated and 2,837,308 (1,469,831) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 75.69 (48.41). The percentage has been exceeded only by the record of 78.68 in 1917, but the number of lambs marked was exceeded in each of the years 1938 to 1943, the record being 3,322,810 in 1943.

LAMBING 1947. 4,133,564 ewes were mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1947 - 2,921,231 to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,212,333 to rams of other breeds. Although the number of ewes mated or intended is nearly 400,000 more than the actual for 1946 and 1,100,000 more than for 1945, it still is over 500,000 less than the number for 1943.

WOOL CLIP. 7,960,779 (7,268,477) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 76,179,041 (63,045,927) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.57 (8.26) lbs and for sheep only 10.48 (9.10) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 16,000,000 (10,557,804) lbs for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 92,000,000 (73,603,731) lbs.

CATTLE. All kinds 423,980 (374,096) increase 49,884 and the number now is nearly back to the 1943 figure of 424,253 which was exceeded only by 425,811 in 1923. Dairying cows 186,920 (175,696) were classified as follows - in milk 119,138 (112,003) dry 44,854 (38,098) and springing heifers 22,928 (25,595). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 19,665 (16,862), dairy calves 47,364 (31,648), dairy bulls 8,118 (7,095) beef cows and heifers 69,803 (70,538) beef calves 36,223 (27,568), beef bulls 2,628 (2,091) and other beef cattle 53,259 (42,598).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June 1947 are as follows: Butter 22,050,000 (18,541,197) lbs, cheese 28,250,000 (22,478,873) lbs and Bacon and Ham 11,450,000 (11,734,764) lbs. Cheese substantially exceeded the record of the previous year while bacon and ham closely approached it.

HORSES. 109,274 (115,949) of which foals were 2,658 (2,186) draught 72,628 (78,004) and other 33,988 (35,759). The number of horses is very little more than half of the number (200,870) in 1936.

PIGS. 134,033 (119,986) of which there were 2,909 (2,770) boars, 16,988 (15,574) breeding sows 43,042 (43,800) baconers and porkers 1,520 (1,821) backfatters 13,188 (13,440) stores and 56,386 (42,581) weaners, suckers and slips.

GOYDER'S LINE OF RAINFALL AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 2,258,754 (1,636,489) sheep, 128,701 (115,036) cattle and 28,946 (31,039) horses, while inside there were 5,699,865 (5,150,049) sheep 295,279 (259,060) cattle and 80,328 (84,910) horses.

SLAUGHTERINGS, 1946.(1945) were as follows:-
 Sheep 818,835 (1,330,297) Lambs 842,966 (686,656), Cattle 146,196 (147,541) Pigs 158,856 (206,298). Prior to the War, the annual slaughterings were approximately - Sheep 900,000, Lambs 800,000, Cattle 160,000 and Pigs 155,000. For the first six months of 1947 (1946) the slaughterings have been - Sheep 365,000 (440,000), Lambs 240,000 (230,000) Cattle 65,000 (68,000) and Pigs 85,000 (78,000).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31ST 1947 IN COMPARISON WITH MARCH 31ST, 1946.

| DIVISION | SHEEP | | CATTLE | | HORSES | PIGS |
|------------------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1947 | 1946 | 1947 | 1946 | 1947 | 1947 |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Central | 1,743,443 | 1,532,522 | 143,585 | 123,487 | 33,593 | 60,207 |
| Lower North | 1,219,363 | 1,019,012 | 31,488 | 28,116 | 17,083 | 34,979 |
| Upper North | 780,543 | 545,158 | 17,723 | 13,674 | 8,050 | 6,085 |
| South Eastern | 1,520,811 | 1,514,271 | 93,632 | 80,500 | 8,480 | 5,888 |
| Western | 1,335,944 | 1,176,312 | 16,214 | 14,825 | 19,375 | 11,324 |
| Murray Mallee | 640,662 | 444,869 | 25,055 | 20,713 | 14,222 | 15,548 |
| Total counties | 7,240,766 | 6,232,144 | 327,697 | 281,315 | 100,803 | 134,031 |
| Outside counties | 717,853 | 554,394 | 96,283 | 92,781 | 8,471 | 2 |
| Total State | 7,958,619 | 6,786,538 | 423,980 | 374,096 | 109,274 | 134,033 |
| Increase | 1,172,081 | -1,687,401 | 49,884 | -17,227 | - 6,675 | 14,047 |

WOOL PRODUCTION

| DIVISION | WOOL CLIP | | | AVERAGE WEIGHT FLEECE | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|
| | 1946-47 | 1945-46 | Increase | 1946-47 | 1945-46 | Increase |
| | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. |
| Central | 17,032,737 | 13,640,481 | 3,392,256 | 9.45 | 7.83 | 1.62 |
| Lower North | 12,535,715 | 9,887,240 | 2,648,475 | 10.28 | 9.28 | 1.00 |
| Upper North | 6,766,475 | 4,843,043 | 1,923,430 | 10.28 | 9.61 | 0.67 |
| South Eastern | 15,336,268 | 13,060,976 | 2,275,292 | 8.87 | 7.26 | 1.61 |
| Western | 12,647,499 | 11,422,851 | 1,224,648 | 9.25 | 7.85 | 1.40 |
| Murray Mallee | 5,177,281 | 3,836,810 | 1,340,471 | 9.39 | 7.98 | 1.41 |
| Total counties | 69,495,975 | 56,691,403 | 12,804,572 | 9.48 | 8.04 | 1.44 |
| Outside " | 6,683,066 | 6,354,524 | 328,542 | 10.56 | 10.95 | -0.39 |
| Total State | 76,179,041 | 63,045,927 | 13,133,114 | 9.57 | 8.26 | 1.31 |

Grand Total Wool Production (Clip, Fellmongered and on Skins exported) subject to slight revision, 1946-47 92,000,000 lbs. 1945-46 73,603,731 lbs.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.
 20th August, 1947

A. W. BOWDEN,
GOVERNMENT STATIST.